



THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



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Contributors: Naomi Bradshaw, Lis Kendall, Harriet Rudden, Andrew Timms

Editors: Emily Downing & Julia Uwins **Cover photograph:** David Olds https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidolds_uk

A letter from the Provost

Professor Paul Madden FRS FRSE

Several Newsletters ago I shared my anxiety that students were not taking advantage of the non-academic opportunities that Oxford and the College have to offer. I am pleased to report many positive developments on the back of a very successful Eights Week for Queen's: a total of six boats were entered and the Men's first and second eight got blades - which was celebrated by a large and happy contingent around the boathouse. In the previous week a very successful production, complete with live orchestra, of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* was performed in the gardens and Shulman Auditorium - the fifth year in succession a musical has been staged by the Eglesfield Music Society and Eglesfield Players. Ever-increasing numbers of students are actively engaged in local charitable activity, helping the children of non-native English speakers in reading classes, for example. So a very large proportion of the student body is now involved in an activity beyond study which I believe is a real benefit to education in the broader sense as well as helping to deflect some of the stress associated with the modern university experience.

I have been participating in the search for the next vice-Chancellor of the University which has led to the very popular nomination of Louise Richardson, currently Vice-Chancellor at St Andrew's. A striking thing about her candidature, alongside her outstanding professional qualities and commitment to a world-leading university, is her espousal of university as a life-transforming opportunity - for which her own career is an excellent example. I do not think she is only thinking of doing well in examinations.

The appointment process presented a fascinating opportunity for me to hear the views of some of the great university leaders from around the world on Oxford and its future. It is clear that to sustain the "world-leading" label, at least as seen through the international league tables, will be a significant challenge - not least because of the greater level of resources available to many of the competitors in the US and, increasingly, Asia. This is relevant because the quality of the people ultimately determines the quality of the institution and universities are now engaged in a global "market" for academic staff and students, especially at the postgraduate level. Resources matter because the quality of buildings and facilities as well as of salaries and working conditions have an important impact on the ability to recruit and keep key staff. Increasingly, international universities aspire to make "needs-blind" offers to students selected on merit, and this would require financial resources well beyond those held by the University and colleges in order to be implemented across the board in Oxford. Despite all this, these leaders were uniformly positive about Oxford retaining a place at the top table. They argued that it should make the most of its distinctive nature, and not slavishly follow the model set by the international competitors. The Oxford system of undergraduate education was envied across the world and the personalised, interactive



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tutorial form was seen as exactly what is required in the coming decades to sit alongside the IT-based information delivery systems which will increasingly come into use.

A significant challenge was to leverage the advantage of the collegiate structure in postgraduate education, where appropriate, so that the postgraduate offer becomes as distinctive as the undergraduate one. This is very much a challenge to the "mixed" colleges (undergraduate and postgraduate) like Queen's. These positive observations do not make the resources challenge go away - you will have seen in the press the current uncertainty about the future of research funding in the UK. The inability to make needs-blind offers is certainly inhibiting the ability to make successful offers to outstanding graduate students, which also impacts upon research, and one reads of increasing numbers of undergraduates tempted to the elite US universities by such offers.

So, much positive reflection, but no room for complacency. Quite a good place to find oneself at the end of another academic year.

Paul Madden



The area in the centre of this photograph is an Anglo-Norman road surface - cart ruts are visible to the eagle-eyed.



This is an onion bottle, dated 1707. The name comes from the shape; it would probably have been used to hold wine!



Here is some seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century pottery, featuring what are probably ale pots among other domestic ware.

Archaeology...

With the Library Extension Project underway, archaeological work in the Provost's Garden began in earnest earlier this year. A team from Oxford Archaeology began preparing the site in February in order to examine its history, with the plans developed in conjunction with Oxford City Council and the work anticipated to last until the end of May.

To showcase the work being carried out, the College took part in the Oxford Archaeology Open Day on Saturday 18 April. Approximately 750 people came to view the site over the course of the day with Oxford Archaeology staff on hand to conduct guided tours. Some of the exciting objects and artefacts discovered during the excavations were on display, such as the selection of pottery seen in picture two.

A viewing platform has been erected in College to allow students, staff and College visitors to observe the site and the progress of the project. A webcam has also been set up on the roof of the Library which takes still pictures of the site every fifteen minutes - so watch this space for more updates!

Planting a seed...

As the Provost's Garden was dismantled in order to prepare the ground for the archaeological work, Alison Madden contacted Old Members living locally to find out if any of them were interested in giving a good home to some of the plants which were being uprooted. The opportunity to have a piece of the College gardens proved to be a popular one with an overwhelmingly positive response.

The plants were potted up in advance by the College's gardener and Old Members popped into College over the course of a weekend to collect them. There was much to choose from, with plants ranging from Japanese anemones, Crocosmias and Geraniums to Spiraeas and two pots of Melianthus.

Many thanks to those who made the voluntary donation which was split between the College and the charity Home-Start, based in Oxford. We hope your gardens are flourishing!



Library bird's-eye view

News

from the College

College Archivist wins Library History Essay Award 2014

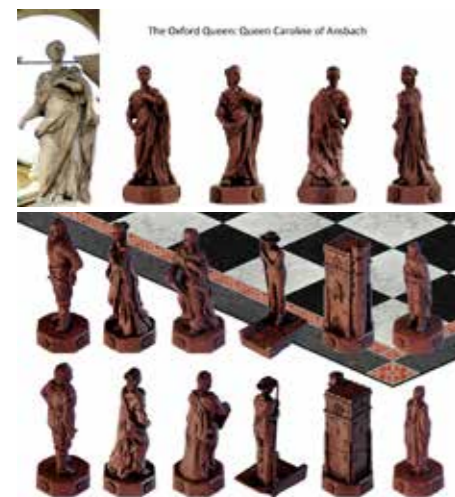
The College Archivist Michael Riordan has won the Library History Prize for 2014 awarded by CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) for his essay 'The King's Library of Manuscripts: The State Paper Office as Archive and Library'. The essay focuses on the State Paper Office which, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, preserved the papers of the Secretaries of State (the predecessors of the modern Home and Foreign Secretaries), using it as a case study to explore the similarities and differences between libraries and archives in the early modern period.

Checkmate!

A bespoke chess set has been designed based on the historic friendly rivalry between Cambridge and Oxford, using landmarks and historic figures from both cities. The College's benefactress Queen Caroline of Ansbach (as seen on the cover of the Newsletter) is featured as Oxford's Queen in the set. The development of the whole set took three years and an award-winning sculptor has carved each piece.

The makers have launched a Kickstarter crowd-funding campaign to raise money for the first production run.

To support them, and make the chess set a reality, visit: www.oxbridgechess.com.



Professor Jane Langdale elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society

The College congratulates Professor Jane Langdale who has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society. Jane is Professor of Plant Development in the Department of Plant Sciences and is a Senior Research Fellow at Queen's.

Weekend in Wien

In April the University organised another excellent Alumni Weekend in Europe - this time in the beautiful city of Vienna. A full programme of events took place over the course of three days, from drinks receptions and a formal dinner to academic talks and even waltzing lessons! Queen's held a College dinner on the Friday night at the restaurant Vestibül in the entrance hall of the Burgtheater where we were joined by 20 Old Members and their guests from all over Europe.

If you would like to hear about future events in Europe then please let us know (oldmembers@queens.ox.ac.uk).



Book Corner

Honorary Fellow Caryl Phillips (1976) returned to College in April to host a reading and discussion of his new novel *The Lost Child*, a story of orphans and outcasts, haunted by the past and fighting to liberate themselves from it. Phillips intertwines a modern narrative with the childhood of one of literature's most enigmatic lost boys, as he deftly conjures young Heathcliff, the anti-hero of *Wuthering Heights*, and his ragged existence before Mr Earnshaw brought him home to his family. *The Lost Child* recovers the mysteries of the past to illuminate the predicaments of the present, getting at the heart of alienation, exile, and family by transforming a classic into a profound story.

Old Member Jane Bailey Bain (1979) had her second book, *StoryWorks* published in May 2015. The follow up to her 2012 book *LifeWorks*, *StoryWorks* is a

practical handbook on how to tell stories, for writers, speakers and leaders. It ranges from classic tools like the 'rule of threes' to the new mnemonic 'five finger technique'. These are illustrated with over seventy stories from around the world: some are traditional tales, others are modern fables. They are accompanied by creative exercises to expand your narrative and storytelling skills. Whether you are a speaker or writer, a leader or coach or counsellor, *StoryWorks* provides an invaluable source of inspiration, narrative material and practical skills.



Le Petit Tour

a cycling peregrination

The penultimate stage of the 2014 Tour de France cycle race started in Bergerac on 26 July 2014. As a prelude to the main event, eight 1960s - vintage Queensmen with a combined age of more than 500 years and of varying degrees of cycling ability assembled on Sunday 25 May at Alan Colman's (1967) magnificent country house some 25 miles south of Bergerac for 'le Petit Tour'. One major affinity binding the group together was participation to varying degrees in the Queen's Association Football Club. Five wives/partners joined the group and (for the most part) served as a moderating influence. To set the scene, Tony Lindley (1968), who unfortunately could not join the group, prepared a video presentation describing the locality which was shown one evening. Le Petit Tour consisted of two days of cycling through the Dordogne countryside, a rest day, then two more days of cycling. The general format of the day comprised a start at about 9.30 am and a return at approximately 5.30 pm interspersed with breaks for coffee, lunch and tea in the region's bastides. The total distance covered by the majority of participants was 260 km. Analgesia in the evenings was ensured by the consumption of a prodigious volume of therapeutic alcohol. Each day the most courageous rider was presented with the 'Maillot Jaune', with the 'Maillot Rose' (pink jersey) presented for the most imbecilic (not necessarily cycling-related) act.



The winning team Back row, L to R: Neil Clark (1969), Alan Colman (1967), Ian Swanson (1965), Roger Blanshard (1966), David Jeffery (1964). Front row, L to R: Peter Haywood (1968), Peter Kelly (1967), Justine Burley, Carole Blanshard, Peter Sugden (1966), Janis Clark.



The French authorities were well prepared for le Petit Tour and had installed the requisite road signs.

Following dinner on the Sunday, the group made its way across the fields to the estate's Chapel. In this sepulchral environment, le Petit Tour was blessed in a candlelit ceremony by the circulation of the 'Grace Cup' and the recitation 'In Memoriam Absentium, in Salutem Praesentium', as at the Boar's Head Gaudy. The first day's riding consisted of a rather damp tour of local roads. On the second day, the group ventured further afield, visiting Eymet, Miramont and Lauzun, though there was an option of a shorter tour. The rest day consisted of a visit to the chateau and Maison du Vin at Montbazillac, a leisurely lunch at the Michelin-starred 'la Tour des Vents', and a visit to Bergerac. This excursion was delayed after the 53 seater coach initially provided became wedged in the drive of the Colman chateau, whereupon a smaller relief vehicle had to be summoned. In the evening, the 'The Old Queen's Pub Quiz' (organised by Roger Blanshard, 1966) tested the group's knowledge with answers that included Joe Blackadder, the Lewendens, Lord Blake, etc. Animated discussions about the accuracy of answers were frequent, the most bizarre being the necessity or otherwise for an apostrophe in the College founder's name (Robert de Eglesfield or Robert d'Eglesfield - both are actually correct). Days four and five followed the general format of the previous cycling days, visiting villages such as Issigeac, Couze, Villereal and Biron. On the evening of day four, a wine-tasting competition was organised by Peter

Kelly (1967) which embarrassingly revealed the group's general ignorance of viticulture. The gala dinner on the last evening featured Alan Colman's chili con carne and the presentation of gifts to the generous hosts, Alan and Justine. Also selected for special thanks were the main tour organiser, Roger Blanshard, and his assistant, Peter Kelly. Other than some saddle-weariness, the only injury of consequence was incurred when one participant tripped over a step whilst exiting a lavatory and fractured his wrist!

Submitted by 'Lanterne Rouge et les Bicyclistes du Collège de la Reine'

Interview with the Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer, Harriet Rudden (2011)



Could you tell us a bit about your work as Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer?

In a nutshell, the aim of outreach is to encourage the most able students to apply to Oxford regardless of their background. This usually means I spend most of my time informing schools about the application process and what it is really like to study here, as well as dispelling myths and commonly held misconceptions about Oxford and the 'type' of person who goes here. I usually work with school groups in years 10 and 12, focusing on different things depending on the age group; this can range from talking broadly about the options they face post-16 to something much narrower like looking at Oxford interview questions and aptitude tests. And, of course, I am always promoting Queen's! I spend most of the Oxford term time having school groups visit me for a day in College and outside of term I try to organise to go out to as many schools as possible.

What was it about the role that appealed to you and what do you now find most rewarding?

This role appealed to me because of my own background in applying to Oxford. I did not consider it an option until I was in year 12 and even then, as much as my school tried to help me, it really knew very little about the process. It did not have any kind of link that some schools have with Oxford colleges and in retrospect I can see that I entered the process with little

knowledge about how it worked and held the same misconceptions that I encounter now when I work with students. I really wanted to make a difference to this because not only did I find the misconceptions inaccurate but I also realised that you do not need to grow up thinking Oxford is an option for it to be one - accurate knowledge of what it is really like to study here and of the application process helps.

I find it really rewarding when I can see a group genuinely excited when they visit the College, especially when you can see their attitude changing throughout the day. I get very excited when I see the same student twice; for example, if I have gone to talk to their school and then they decide themselves to come and visit the College or go to an open day. I like to think that hopefully I have made an impact. I will be watching this year's admissions data closely!

You are an Old Member of Queen's yourself – how do you think this has affected the way you do your job?

I definitely think that it makes my job a lot easier and more fun to do. I had a really great time as a student at Queen's and I like to think my enthusiasm for the College shows in my promotion of it. It is nice when giving tours to the schools to be able to add your own stories about different parts of the College and have a real knowledge about what student life is like here and the sorts of events that take place. I think it makes it easier for them to see me as person they can relate to because I was a student here rather than some figure of authority that is just giving them a lot of objective knowledge about Queen's and Oxford.

The College has historic ties with the North – in what ways are those links maintained through the work you do?

The University operates a regionalisation system to simplify communication between the University and all schools in the United Kingdom. Each Oxford college is now linked to a Local Authority to ensure that each school has a first point of contact within the University and colleges were invited to bid for regions when the system was established. Queen's tried to maintain its historic ties with the North in the bidding process and consequently our local authorities consist of the northern regions of Lancashire, Cumbria, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, as well as the London Boroughs of Lewisham and Sutton. This also means that we are linked to ten of the Hastings Schools.



What are the biggest challenges you encounter?

The biggest challenge is definitely combating the misconceptions that some of the school students have about what it is like here and the 'type' of person who studies here. These misconceptions prevent some students from seeing Oxford as an option and they are hard to break down because so many people believe them and they are perpetuated by the press and the internet. The best way to overcome this is for the schools to visit me at Queen's and see what it is really like; when they chat and have lunch with the current students they can see that they are normal people! It is much harder for our link schools in the North to visit for the day so it is harder for them to get that experience – I mostly have to do the convincing when I visit them.

How do you see Access & Outreach developing in the next few years?

I would like to build more consistent links with the schools we work with but this takes time. If we were able to do this I would hope to set up a more solid programme of contact where I could perhaps work with the same students throughout key stage four and key stage five. At the moment, most events take place on an ad hoc basis although we do have a yearly programme in collaboration with the Lewisham Borough Council as well as a joint Sutton-Surrey Programme with St Hilda's College. I would also like to establish a greater wealth of resources to promote the College. We are currently working on an 'Alternative Prospectus' and I am looking into making an outreach video.

In what ways can Old Members support, and become involved with, the work that you are doing?

It would be great to have Old Members' support and involvement - no one can promote the College better than an Old Member! If anyone is based in one of the College's link regions and would like to go and talk to our link schools or join me on a visit to them then I would be more than happy to arrange something. Alternatively, I am always looking for new ways to expand the College's outreach initiatives so I am open to any suggestions and keen to take on new projects.



Poetry and Politics



What is your current role and what does it involve?

Until 2010 I served as Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, a government-funded collaboration led by the University of Edinburgh designed to increase the UK's Arabic language capacity and coordinate research trajectories in line with national strategic interests. In 2010, coinciding with the first glimpses of the so-called Arab spring, I took up a Senior Research Fellowship in Arabic and Islamic

Studies at Pembroke College, Oxford. This gave me the freedom to spend significantly more time in the field and focus on my own research again.

How did the Arab Spring in 2010 affect your own research?

The Arab spring led me to reconsider my research goals. I wanted to find ways of linking my years of studying and researching Middle Eastern languages and literatures to the developments unfolding in the Arab world. I decided to focus on the role that Arabic cultural production plays in contemporary political and militant movements - not just literature's role in reflecting or documenting various currents, but in actively shaping, mobilising or even instigating them. I got together with some colleagues in political science to explore — indeed to measure, through mass survey work in Egypt — whether and how the consumption of different literary genres might be linked to revolutionary activity. This experience of quantitative methods has helped to inform my ongoing research projects in Yemen. I conducted a mass survey among Yemen's Eastern tribes in 2013 to research the causes of, and therefore solutions to, youth activism and to help locals shape their development agenda. In return, the tribes offered me protection for my investigations into al-Qa'ida and its use of poetry to support militant jihad.

How do you cope with the challenges of fieldwork?

In Yemen I always wear the black abaya and veil, and in sensitive areas I also wear black gloves and the full face veil that also covers my eyes. It certainly keeps the packing

simple. When working in the east of Yemen, I normally cross over the desert border with Oman. A dozen or more Mahri tribesmen, sent from each of the three main tribal confederations, meet me at the border with a convoy of land cruisers (the replacement camel). First stop is a ramshackle petrol station just inside the Yemeni border, where everyone collects their guns. This works a bit like valet parking or a cloakroom service - they can't show up at the Omani side of the border crossing with weapons so this is a handy system. Then we're off, bouncing through the desert towards al-Ghayda, the capital of Yemen's al-Mahra region, with others joining our convoy along the way. Al-Ghayda is where I camp out, sleeping on the floor inside a concrete compound with high walls; just me and up to 50 armed men whom I know I can rely on to keep us all safe. It generally takes a couple of days, but then the men are totally relaxed in my company. We share food and eat by hand from the same plate, make plans and jokes, and sit around the campfire in the evening when they often sing poetry - competitively! I was impressed and relieved to learn that they also cook - so stereotypes of sexism are not quite as simple as the media sometimes portrays. The Kalashnikovs strewn casually across the mats where we sit soon start to look like a normal part of the landscape.

When you are studying jihadist propaganda through poetry, are you more concerned with literary criticism or political issues?

I'm concerned with how literary techniques are deployed for political ends. For example, militant jihadists inspire new recruits by harnessing familiar classical forms such as praise and lament to celebrate suicide bombers, or lampoon to attack their government and its western allies. Often whole passages are 'borrowed' from the classical poetic heritage

but imbued with new meaning - traditional natural imagery from the desert might be set alongside modern explosive belts, or trusty steeds swapped for motorcycles, swords for guns and the like. The classical Arabic vocabulary, metre and rhyme lend the modern messages an aura of authenticity and legitimacy. The poetry also plays an essential role in constructing not only a coherent image of the enemy, but also of the jihadist as part of an age-old apocalyptic battle in which horrific atrocities are cast as virtuous glories. Teenage bombers are celebrated in the same breath as the Prophet Muhammad's Companions, and their operations compared to Islam's earliest battles. This is hugely seductive among aimless youth with no prospects of advancement in this life. The poetry replaces potential recruits' worries about pain, maiming and death to Paradise with its sweet waters and virgins. Plus, it's catchy. It spreads fast and has a more effective appeal than dry declarations or theological position statements among a largely illiterate desert population.

How did your Laming Junior Fellowship at Queen's prepare you for the work you currently do?

The Laming Junior Fellowship was an invaluable time for immersing myself in the literary traditions of the Near and Middle East. I was working on modern Arabic and Turkish literature and the ways in which it intersected with political struggles in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I left Queen's to embark on a decade of heavy teaching load, followed by the administrative tidal wave that came with directing a research centre. Without the generous time that Queen's gave me to soak up knowledge, critical theory and research techniques whilst honing my linguistic skills at the start of my career, I would not be able to engage in this research today.

Dr Lis Kendall (Former Laming Junior Fellow)

What does the Bursar actually do?

In September 2014 Dr Andrew Timms became the College's Bursar. Andrew was formerly the College's Director of Development; here he tells us a bit about his new role.

How healthy are the College's finances?

At the moment we are in a challenging position. We have enjoyed considerable investment growth (as well as generous support from Old Members) in recent years, and income and expenditure have been, very broadly, in line with where we need them to be. However, we are expecting to spend approaching £40 million on capital projects in the next four years, which is a very considerable outlay, so challenges lie ahead.

Why is so much expenditure planned for building projects?

There are two projects in question. The first is an underground extension to the Library, which the College has been contemplating for decades, and of which the Provost has recently written in this publication. The Fellows decided that this new building would not just solve several long-standing problems in the current Library, but also that it would be a significant and desirable investment in the academic future of the College. The project is not staggeringly expensive, but constructing an underground building in the middle of an Oxford college – adjacent to priceless historic buildings, whilst the institution continues to function around you – is neither an easy nor a cheap task.

The second project is the refurbishment of the Florey Building, currently due to begin in 2017. The building is in obvious need of a major overhaul and the goal will be to end up with a structure that can house all of the first year undergraduates on one site (currently around 20 or so live in Iffley Road). The outcome should ameliorate the student experience, as it is now called, very considerably. The College has gone to great lengths to reduce the cost of this project, but the amount of work required, and the particular challenges of the (now listed) building, mean that a very considerable sum is going to have to be spent.

So are buildings your biggest worry?

In some respects, yes, but not in others. The College's internal finances are run on a very subtle and cleverly designed system of management accounts, in which we are very careful to ensure that we are ring-fencing adequate sums for the long-term refurbishment of our buildings. So to some extent I am reassured that extensive provision has been made for the Florey Building. The broader anxiety, which is more worrying because it is vulnerable to so many less controllable factors, is that we must protect and indeed grow our wealth in real terms in order to continue to be the kind of institution that we want to be. In the current financial climate that is a challenge: a lot of the conventional wisdom about how asset classes perform and are correlated, or how you manage an educational endowment in perpetuity, looks rather less secure than it has done in the past.

How does the College manage its endowment?

Ultimately the Governing Body takes decisions, which are considered first in our Estates & Finance Committee. This committee includes three former Bursars amongst its members and brings formidable expertise to all of our investment decisions. This internal wisdom is supplemented by advice from agents and professional advisers, as well as the input of selected Old Members. There is sometimes a tendency to scoff at the ability of what is ultimately an 'amateur' investment committee, but the past decade has seen the College's investments perform quite extraordinarily well (we outperformed many more prestigious endowments during the financial crisis), and I think that many Old Members would be pleasantly surprised by the perspicacity of the Fellows. In particular, as trustees, the Fellows are much more conscious of the perpetual nature of the institution than most professional advisers, and this has a significant impact on the way in which we approach our portfolio. I have never ceased to be surprised at the number of people who earnestly nod their heads when I explain the long-term horizons of the College, and who then recommend that we short the Yen or buy wheat. They confuse trading with endowment management – and our focus is firmly on the latter.

So what does the Bursar actually do when he is not steering the oil tanker?

The next task is to oversee the College's internal finances. There are then further responsibilities, including matters of compliance and trusteeship, and some involvement in personnel policy. Ultimately the Bursar is responsible for the non-academic operation of the College, so there is a lot to do.



What is the structure of a typical day?

I will tell you when I experience one! In term time I am required to attend a lot of meetings, and so a lot of time is spent preparing for these and making sure that decisions are implemented appropriately afterwards. The rhythm of the College's governance beats quite slowly, but our Governing Body meetings themselves are very substantial, and the academic Fellows bring a formidable amount of interest and critique to pretty much everything that we discuss (which can range from academic underperformance to conversions of barns on our historic estates).

On a day-to-day basis there is the constant monitoring of the College's financial position and ensuring that we have enough cash available to meet our commitments. If I have a quiet moment I try to work on my long-term models of the College's finances; we try to forecast over quite long periods, which is as necessary as it is difficult for an institution which strives to exist in perpetuity. In the next year or so we will review our endowment asset-allocation policy, and there are several other long-term projects which await me.

Is being the Bursar very different from being the Director of Development?

Absolutely, yes. As a fund-raiser you tended to bring people good news. Or at least you tried. It is a pressurised job, because you need to bring in a certain amount of cash or else the operation is unviable. (And you can't bring in too much!) Life is very different as Bursar – it is more a case of trying to stop money from flowing out of the door rather than coaxing it in! A different sort of challenge.

What have you enjoyed so far about the role?

Generally, its variety. One moment you are reviewing a lease; next you are in a building project meeting; then you are reviewing budgets or accounts; after that, evaluating whether to extend payment deadlines for students in financial difficulty.

Specifically, an early decision was to recommend the purchase of a pub for our commercial property portfolio, which most Fellows seemed to find quite amusing. And learning more about agriculture has been interesting: I now know what a Dutch barn is, for instance. The intricacies of VAT are a bit less scintillating, but probably more useful.

What are the particular financial challenges facing the College at the moment?

The building projects are obvious challenges, and funding them is no trivial undertaking; at the moment the College is thinking carefully about its long-term borrowings to help meet the need for cash. Thinking outside of the College, the future looks pretty ominous in financial terms: the external funding climate for higher education is pretty gloomy, and this hurts the University as well as the colleges.

We have been fortunate to benefit from strong support from Old Members in recent years, and the need is certainly not going to diminish.

A letter from the Old Members' Officer



Published by:
The Old Members' Office
The Queen's College
Oxford OX1 4AW
oldmembers@queens.ox.ac.uk

T: +44 (0)1865 279214

F: +44 (0)1865 279150



Save the Date!

The College will be holding its own special anniversary event for Old Members next summer. The event will take place on Saturday 20 August 2016 – more details to be released soon!!



Calendar

19 Sept 2015	Old Members' Dinner
17 Oct 2015	50th Anniversary Matriculation Gaudy Lunch (1965)
14 Nov 2015	'Ten Years Later' Lunch (2005)
28 Nov 2015	MA Reunion Lunch (2008)
10 Dec 2015	Reunion at The Blues Village & Varsity Rugby Match, Twickenham
19 Dec 2015	Boar's Head Gaudy (1992 and 1993)
9 Jan 2016	Needle and Thread Gaudy (2000 and 2001)

More event dates can be found on the website.

Dear Old Member,

The response rate to our recent survey has been incredible and I'd like to thank you all very much for taking part. The information we have received will allow us to do the best possible job of keeping you in touch with us and each other, and involve you in the ways you most enjoy, so thank you. Please note that we are still in the process of updating our records with all the information we have received. You'll appreciate that this is a lengthy process and Julia and I are enlisting the help of a student over the summer vacation to finish the task.

In my previous letter I made reference to the underground library extension project and work is now well underway. A more detailed mailing will go out to you in due course which will include, amongst other things, a request to make a gift to the project. I do hope you'll be able to consider showing your support, however large or small, and contributing to this very exciting development.

This letter gives me the opportunity to let you know that in September Anna Thorne will be joining the Old Members' Office as the new Director of Development. Anna will join the College from Oxfam where she is currently working as Head of Major Gifts. Her first event will be the Old Members' Dinner and I hope you'll join me in giving her a warm welcome to Queen's. In the meantime I look forward to the many visits we expect to receive from Old Members, and often your families as well, over the summer months. Do come and say hello (FQ 2/1) and we'll pop the kettle on.

Next year will be a busy and exciting year for the College, and also for Old Members, as we will be holding a series of events to mark the 675th anniversary. The highlight of these celebrations will be a very special event in College on 20 August 2016. Please save the date and we'll be in touch with more details later this year.

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and, as always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or suggestions.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Downing

Commemoration Ball

The Queen's College 675th Anniversary Commemoration Ball will take place on Friday 24 June 2016. We have recently appointed a committee for what promises to be a fantastic night and the event of the Oxford social calendar next year. If you are interested in attending and would like to receive information about the Ball and updates on ticket releases, please email ball@queens.ox.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at the Ball.

President: Isabella Boscawen

Vice-Presidents: Alexander Bishop and Naomi Bradshaw

Treasurer: Olivia Rohll

